

# GREAT FARMERS MEET

Invitation to Every Farmer in America to Mammoth Mass Meeting to Be Held May 3-7.

President Charles S. Barrett, of the Farmers' Union, has extended an invitation to every farmer in America to attend a mammoth mass meeting to be held in St. Louis, May 3-7, for the purpose of bringing about a closer fraternity between the great producing class of the country. President Barrett has addressed a general invitation not only to the members of the organization, but to every farmer in America, this being his call:

From May 3 to May 7, inclusive, the Farmers' Union will hold at the coliseum, in St. Louis, a national mass meeting for farmers, unparalleled in scope, probably in importance, undoubtedly in attendance, in the history of America.

The railroads of the country have proposed to grant low round trip rates from every portion of America.

I regard it as urgently desirable that every officer and member of the Farmers' Union, who can afford the time and money, be with us these five days.

I also issue an invitation to agricultural organizations and to American farmers without regard to organization or location, to participate with us in this conference.

A program unprecedented in interest and vitality is being arranged. Speakers and authorities of national prominence, without reference to political affiliation, will be present.

Throughout the current session of Congress, the Farmers' Union has maintained a legislative bureau at Washington. This bureau is preparing a report on which the status of the legislation demanded and needed by the American farmer will be plainly set forth. This reading of this report will be an interesting phase of the conference.

At no previous time in the history of the nation, has the farmer been

the object of more solicitude by the thoughtful public men and by the public at large. From Congress, from every newspaper forum, from every stump and rostrum, goes up the cry, "Back to the land!"

Expert and conscientious students of economics, are warning us that unless the lot of the farmer is improved, unless more of his number are kept on the farm, we shall shortly be depending upon foreign nations for a portion of our food.

The farmer is the keystone of America's prosperity, the bulwark of its commercial prestige abroad, the very heartbeat of our future destiny at home and in the fierce competition of civilization.

It is at this moment, when national voices usually quiet are clamoring for more studious attention and tribute to the farmer, when every factor in our political and economic system regards with misgiving and positive fear the depopulation of the country and the encroachment of industrial crisis and chaos in the cities, that I invite the members of the Farmers' Union, the farmers generally of America, to join hands and brain and heart in a council which shall thresh out issues close to the life of the nation.

The time is propitious, the necessity is urgent, for closer and more fraternal relations between the men upon whose shoulders rests the present and the future of America.

At bottom, our interests are identical. At bottom, our interests are the interests of every man, woman and child in America, now living or yet to be born.

Proper co-operation will make this conference the most momentous and constructive of its kind in the country's history. I should like every member of the Farmers' Union, every other agricultural organization, and others expecting to be present, to notify me.

CHARLES S. BARRETT,  
President Farmers' Union,  
Union City, Ga.

sown for hay. There is no finer feed for horses or cattle than soy bean hay. My brood sows are grazing now on alfalfa, which has grown four or five inches during the last ten days. I suggest that every farmer, who is farming his own land, fix up a small patch of ground at once and sow in alfalfa to experiment with. You won't regret having done so if you finally succeed in getting a catch; and I think you will. But don't neglect to manure well and also to apply lime. Alfalfa must have lime.

## A VARIETY TEST FARM.

(Monroe Journal.)

It just does The Journal good to be able to tell about any piece of real progress hereabout either in town or country, however small or large. Now here is something good in the farming line again. The county is to have a variety test farm. This is for the purpose of testing various varieties of corn and cotton to see which are best suited to the average soils of the county. All good farmers are alive to the value of good seed, but in buying from a distance they are at a loss to know which are the most suitable ones for the soil and climate that prevail here. Individual farmers have to try for two or three years any new variety, and in the meantime they take the risk of making costly mistakes. Now the work of a variety test farm is to do this on a larger and more thorough scale than individuals can do it. The farm will be located on Mr. P. B. Blakeney's place, two miles south on the Griffith road. It will be run in connection with the demonstration work now being carried on by the National Agricultural Department under the local management of Mr. T. J. W. Broom.

## MR. PATTEN ON COTTON

Tells London Reporters That Prices Are Going Higher

"I Tell You There Are Possibilities Ahead in the Cotton Trade That Will Astonish the Spinners"—He Says a Man on a Big Trade Must Keep Away From Alcohol.

The London Mail of March 9, just to hand, contains an interview with James A. Patten and heads it "Mr. Patten's Life Story." The details were gathered as the steamship Mauretania was speeding from Fishguard to Liverpool. The Mail reporter boarded the steamer ship at the former port. In view of the treatment which Mr. Patten received on the floor of the Manchester exchange, the following tribute from the Mail reporters' pen will prove of special interest:

His fame is large—the body of a man born to the soil—his manner sympathetic, his ruling passion a desire to treat his fellows honestly and be rightly understood by the world.

Mr. Patten and family have taken apartments at Asheville, N. C., where they will spend a month.

Mr. Patten refrained from buying pools on the ship's run to Liverpool. "I didn't buy a single pool on board this ship," he said. "Had I done so they would have said: 'Patten can't help gambling. As soon as he gets on board he starts betting on the ship's run.'"

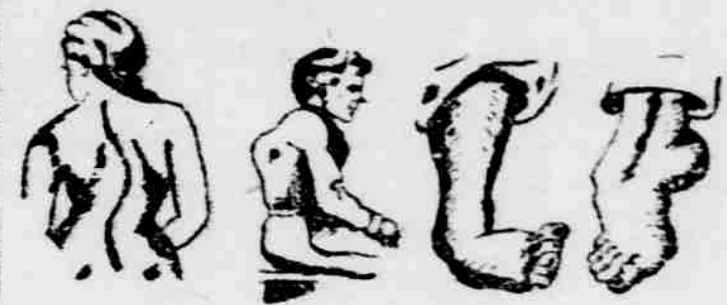
According to Mr. Patten prices are going to be higher all round. The world he says is growing extravagant. The level civilization is rising. "It's the old story of supply and demand. If you ask for more than the world can supply prices are bound to go up."

"Does that apply to cotton?" asked the interviewer.

"Cotton!" The "Wheat King" nearly shot out of his chair at the word. "Do you know that the demand for cotton today is enormous, and that it is growing every day? Do you know that 350,000 bales of cotton went into motor tires alone last year and hoods for motors used up more of it? They make blankets of cotton. I had a fine pair on my bed at a lead-

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ing hotel in New York the other night, and I met the man who makes them. He is going to send me a pair. Do you know that the Southern States use up three-fourths of all the cotton they produce? Where is the cotton to come from? The area in Egypt cannot be enlarged. You cannot grow cotton in sand. India is the only country where the area of cotton can be increased, and the quality is not fine.

"Take the United States crop. Last year it was 13,800,000 bales. This season it is 9,800,000. During the coming year America wants 14,300,000. Can it get it? You have heard of the boll-weevil? You are going to hear a good deal about it soon. The boll-weevil (larva of a moth which destroys the cotton plant) is extending its territory. It is now all through Texas, Louisiana and south Mississippi, and it is going to spread all through the cotton country, but especially in the wooded country east of the Mississippi, because it hibernates in rotten wood. They cannot stop it, and I don't know what the end will be.

"I tell you there are possibilities ahead in the cotton trade that will astonish the spinners. America has got to raise 14,000,000 bales this year to keep the price down to 12 1/2 cents per pound. If there is more drought than usual or excessive rains, there is going to be a strange market in cotton."

"Yes, I am in cotton, and have been for many years. But I have not come to England on account of cotton. No, I am here for a rest. My partner, Mr. Pierce, was taking a two months vacation in Europe with his wife and gave me just three days before the ship sailed to make up my mind to come too. Mr. Pierce buys and sells wheat and knows more about it than any man in the United States. All I do is give my advice when people ask for it. I work hard, but not too hard. I get to my office at nine, and leave at four, with an hour for lunch. On Saturdays I get away at twelve. I cannot afford to do clerk's work or dictate letters. A man in a big trade must leave that to others.

"Have I made enough money? Did you ever know a man who had? Making money is just a habit. Get it and you cannot get rid of it. Look at Carnegie. He gave us £2,000,000 in steel stock to form a fund for pensioning professors. I am on the committee. Well, sir, what did he do but hold that stock after he gave it until half a year's dividend was due. Then he cut off the coupons and handed the stock to us. There is just as much chance for a young man to make money as ever there was—more chance, I should say. Let him work hard and live within his income and the chance will come if he is shrewd enough. I am not a teetotaler, though practically one. I have had just one drink on board this ship. A man in a big trade must keep away from alcohol. He must have a normal brain; alcohol gives you courage, and you do the wrong thing because you're not afraid of it as you ought to be. What do I do with my money? I don't spend much personally. A couple of motor-cars gives me fresh air. I am on the board of a couple of hospitals. I am putting up a gymnasium at Chicago University. They call me the Boss of Evanston, the place where Chicago sleeps. I was mayor for one year. There are one or two fanatics who come to me when they want money to help people who are in trouble and generally get it, and I spent 11,200 last year to run down the ballot-box frauds on the road side."

## Harder-Working Acres.

As illustrating the truth of the assertion that what this country needs is better farming rather than more farms, the Kansas City Star cites a Kansas farmer who cultivates fifteen acres and last year sold \$5,400 worth of vegetables and fruit therefrom. Those fifteen acres were part of a 640-acre farm his father formerly had tried to cultivate with the aid of a family of boys, but he never produced as much on the entire farm in one year by the old style of farming as his son did last year under the new.

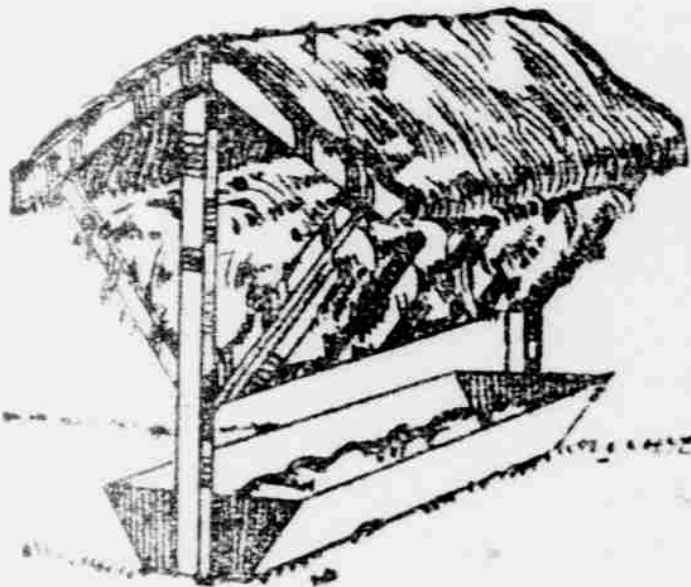
Tarboro, March 19.—Calvary Episcopal church vestry has purchased two lots on the Common and St. Patrick streets, on which there will be erected a handsome rectory. The rectory, which is now occupied by the pastor of the church, will be sold.

## A COVERED FEED RACK.

The picture will show how to make one of the most serviceable buildings from the barnyard.

A covered feed-rack for winter feeding of corn fodder or any variety of hay or grains. It answers also for shelter during the summer and shelter for the manure deposited under it—A triple in one shot.

The center posts should be 8 or 10 inches square and 12 or 14 feet long. Set them in the ground 2 1/2 or 3 1/2 feet straight row six feet apart.



This is placed upon the row of posts and a pair of rafters as shown in the picture is fastened to each post.

A slat of common plank is nailed upon which a roof of straw or hay is placed.

Staples are nailed to the rafter braces and when slats are nailed, forming the rack.

A trough for grains, mill feed, or roots is built on each side.

This also catches the loose hay or grain which falls through, and the rack gets it cleaned up instead of letting it under foot.

A rack like this will cost about \$10, for the 16 or 18 feet long, and will save many times its cost in one season.

## RAISE MEAT TO SELL.

By H. Q. Alexander, President of Farmers' Union.)

Do you know that meat is now higher than it has been in nearly a half century? Do you know that the number of hogs marketed has been

gradually decreasing for the last few years? Do you know that the average weight of hogs has decreased to such an extent that large hams now command a higher price than small ones, and heavy ribs more than light ribs?

Do you know that the Southern farmer is largely responsible for the high price of meat? Let us look into the matter and see if that is so. The Southern farmer has become such a large consumer of Western corn that it is no longer necessary for the Western corn grower to feed his corn to hogs in order to get a remunerative price for it. Therefore he has reduced the hog-raising industry and sold his corn direct.

Thus it is that we, by consuming the Westerner's corn, have made high priced hogs by decreasing the number marketed, and by raising the price of the feed on which the hog is fattened.

From the great demand for brood sows, I think the Southern farmer has already discovered the remedy and has gone to work to apply it.

What about feed for those sows and pigs? You must go to work at once to raise it. Order five pounds of dwarf Essex rape, which will cost less than fifty cents. Prepare an acre of land just as you would for turnips, manure or fertilize it well and plant the rape in rows twenty inches to two feet apart. Drill the seed in very shallow furrows and cover by dragging a light pole over the ground. In eight weeks you will have fine grazing for your hogs.

The rape will grow hog feed in less time than any other crop. If you cannot fence the lot you can pull the rape and feed it to the hog in his pen.

Plant a patch of good land in early summer sorghum to cut for the hogs after the rape. Speckled peas can be grown to fill in after the cane, and by that time your soy beans, the best of all grazing crops for hogs, will be ready to finish up the fattening process in the fall. You should plant them in May just as you would plant cotton. Do not cover more than one and a half or two inches deep, especially in cold sandy land. Do not plant near a thicket where rabbits are plentiful. If you do they will eat the beans off just after they get up. Soy beans are cheaper than field peas this spring and should be



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